

Claim 34 (Amended)

The optical arrangement according to claim 17, further comprising an optical component in said illumination beam path for altering an intensity distribution of said illumination beam to increase illumination intensity near the edge of said illumination beam.

Claim 38 (Twice Amended)

An optical arrangement in an illumination beam path of a confocal laser microscope comprising:

a point-like light source operatively arranged to emit an illumination beam along said illumination beam path;

an illumination optical system arranged in said illumination beam path for modifying an illumination diameter of said illumination beam of said microscope to match an entry pupil of a selected one of said plurality of objectives, wherein said illumination optical system is a zoom optical system which operates steplessly; and,

an additional input whereby a laser light beam from a further light source can be coupled in to said illumination beam path via an additional input and is adaptable to an entry pupil of an objective of said microscope with no adaptation of said actual illumination beam path.